

EDITORIAL NOTES.

for the *Advocates*.

In the rainfall of the present year, Kansas is not likely to suffer a drouth in the absence of resul-

city of Spokane Falls, Wash., was nearly wiped out entirely by fire on the 4th instant according to present esti-

will not fall below \$10,000,000
and Ottawa counties were
d by a severe hail storm on the
The path of the storm was
two miles in width and is said
My destroyed the crops,
poultry and badly
ga.

ster harbor on the
d be of inestimable
ple of the West is be-
and that the city of
proper place for the
tion is equally clear
an at least.

in order we would like to in-
gather the United States Com-
mittee on irrigation are in-
ing, among other systems,
posed by the Kansas City
and if they consider it adap-
-necessaries of the people of

rnational syndicate is said
attempting to gain posses-
cotton mills of this coun-
their objects are to
colonial manufac-
in order that the
make a more better

factory was ob-
sures on the mor-
mained. The loss on
machinery is estimated
which there is an in-
000. The works will
this can not be ac-
to work up the crop of
ent season. There is
at 1800 acres of sorghum
ity of the mill which can
be utilized as feed for stock.
many reasons is a pec-
hardtire tire. Aside from
loss, it is a severe blow
ortant industry not yet fully
and one in which not the
but the entire community
interested.

convention of the Farm-
ers' Alliance at Meriden on
g. 3 in which Jefferson,
Shawnee Counties were

But little business of
was transacted, it having
early in the session to
a general discussion
ns that are to be con-
necting of the State Al-
lance at Newton
with a view of in-
delegates to that meeting
of their constituents
of this district Con-
held on Saturday
a general stand-
off.

The Daily Capital of the 8th has an editorial in which it is attempted to be shown that the farmers are accumulating wealth, and that as a rule they are in a prosperous condition. We are satisfied that these conclusions are incorrect. We take no stock in the mortgaging literature of political campaigns, but we are satisfied both from personal observation and the testimony of farmers themselves, that farm property has largely depreciated in value, and that very many of the products of the farm have not a reasonable margin of profit, at the present time, above the cost of production. The Capital says: "No matter what the amount of indebtedness is, it is that much capital on which the farmer is banking. When he borrows money to improve his farm, he adds that much to his working force and his farm soon shows it. He improves his place and pays the debt." That this might be true under some circumstances cannot be disputed, but is it true as a matter of fact at the present time? Is it true that any large proportion of the present debts of farmers have been contracted for the improvement of farms; and where this is the case has the result justified the investment? We seriously question these conclusions. The prosperity of the farmer must be measured by the increase in the balance in his favor after deducting the amount of his debts from the actual value of his property at the present time, as compared with a like balance in former years; and we believe that if the aggregate present debt of farmers be deducted from the aggregate actual value of farm property today, the result will show a decrease in the balance in favor of the farmer from that of ten years ago. If this be true the farmer cannot be said to be in an ex-
cessive position.

We recognize the difficulty of ascertaining the exact facts in relation to this subject, and admit that the argument must necessarily be in a degree speculative on both sides. We are confident that the farmers themselves are thoroughly satisfied that they are losing ground, and a careful study of the subject must satisfy any impartial observer of the correctness of their conclusions. We believe a careful investigation of the subject will show that those farmers who have made money in the past ten years have done so from speculative pursuits, with capital accumulated under the more favorable conditions of former years, and not from legitimate profits on the products of the farm. If these conclusions can be shown to be incorrect we are ready to reverse our judgment, but at present we believe they coincide with the facts.

A. B. Dickinson, State Lecturer of the Kansas State Farmers' Alliance, visited the city of Leavenworth on the 6th inst. in response to an invitation to meet with the Knights of Labor in Executive session with a view to co-operation for the promotion of interest that are common to both organizations. He reports the meeting harmonious and enthusiastic. He had an interview with the Master Workman and others after the session and expresses himself as very hopeful of the future of both orders and of the re-

suits of co-operation. He says the Knights of Labor are anxious to co-operate and will send an address and perhaps a representative to our State meeting at Newton on the 14th inst. Bro. Dickinson gave an address in which he recited something of the history and workings of the Farmers' Alliance and spoke particularly of the fact that the principles and purposes of that Order were in the interest of both producer and consumer. The address was well received.

The following was the order of exercises at the entertainment on the evening of the 5th: 1st, Address of welcome, M. L. Haecker, mayor; 2nd Response, R. J. StClair, State master-Workman; 3rd, Address by J. H. Atwood county Attorney; "The Laborer is Worthy of his Hire;" 4th, Address by — Davis, State Lect. Knighthood; 5th, Address by A. E. Dickinson. It would be difficult to measure the full import of what is implied in a practical co-operation of these two great organizations. It is well known that the present tendency of all the various organizations of producers and laboring men is in the direction of co-operation, and there is no good reason why such a result may not be consummated. All are working to the same end, and should unquestionably unite for its more certain accomplishment. Let us have more of these meetings of representative men of the different Orders, and let a co-operative Union be established which shall constitute the most powerful Alliance ever effected among men for resistance to oppression and wrong, and for the more thorough establishment of the fundamental principles of human liberty and the elevation of human character on the American continent.

Forest Controlling commo-
We are informed by the following, the Greek historian, of the following custom which prevailed among the ancient Athenians. Once each year they assembled in their towns and villages, all maidens of marriageable age, and an auctioneer disposed of them to such young men as felt matrimonially inclined. The most beautiful were disposed of first, and the bidding for them was said to be very animated and the price paid for them very high. Next followed those who were more plain, but were yet marketable at a fair valuation. After all had been disposed of that possessed sufficient charms to command any kind of a price, the auctioneer began at the other extreme. The ugliest and most unattractive was offered to the man who would take her for the smallest consideration, and we are left to conjecture whether the bidding in such cases was as spirited as in the earlier part of the sales. We are assured however that poor men who were in need of money and other necessities of life, and who were unable to indulge in the luxuries of a beautiful wife always found it advantageous to take one less charming with a financial consideration proportionate to the ugliness or deformity of his life partner. This financial balm to the poor fellow's wounded feelings on such occasions was paid with a liberal hand from the sum realized from the first rates as the price of beauty. Thus all were provided for, it being

a condition of the sale that each man should marry the girl knocked down to him under the banner of the auctioneer. Did such a custom prevail in our country at the present time there would be no tariff levied on imports of foreign beauties, the total supply of marriageable females would be monopolized by a trust in less than ten days, the fair ones would be disposed of at monopoly rates, and the plain and ugly would be utilized in servile employment at starvation prices.

What Our Agricultural Editor Knows About Farming.

The aim of the *Advocates* will be to interest all classes; but doubtless its most extensive patronage will come from those who are devoted to agricultural pursuits. What we shall have to say about farm matters will be the "simon pure" drawn from our actual experience in tilling the soil of the Sunflower State. Our experience in wrestling with the rich and loamy prairie soil of mother earth in this section of the world dates back to the sixties. From that period on through a number of successive years we have with a philanthropic, patient spirit toiled as hard as the average settler of the wild and woolly west to supply the church bug, grasshopper, locusts and other locust friends of the farmer with the necessities of life. In seasons of drouth when it was too dry even to raise the interest on our mortgage we cheerfully accepted the situation (all there was) (accept) feeling that we were doing in one misfortune

the church bug and grasshopper were reduced to the dependent position

the visible means of support

posted on farming and

litical columns will be a chapter of one who knows when a cow is really calving on the setting sun that to impale her udder from the south side of the cow would cause something else to "set" beside the sun especially if she were a cow that insisted on being milked according to Heyl. These remarks are thrown out to establish confidence in the farm editor of the *Advocates* and to guarantee that he won't lead the country patrons of the paper into such errors as "sowing" their wheat with binding twine, or drilling it according to Upton's tactics, or advise them when the sorghum crop is short to take it out by raising "cain" in the domestic circle.

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